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Pol 14 VIETS

(1040)

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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EXCISE

Saigon 5148

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8
ACTION SS 70

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,/070 W

P R 070730Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6372
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4144
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2449

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5148

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF [redacted] b-1 ed

1. DURING BREAKFAST WITH EMBOFF [redacted] SAID THAT THE HUONG CAMP PLANS TO MAKE NO FORMAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ELECTION AND WILL TAKE NO RPT NO OTHER ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT TEND TO UNDERMINE THE PRESTIGE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THEY WILL NOT TURN TO ILLEGAL METHODS. HUONG HAS REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH TRUONG DINH DZU BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THERE IS NO HOPE OF DZU'S GETTING ANYWHERE WITH HIS PROTESTS. AT A DINNER FOR HUONG SUPPORTERS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD EVENING

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SEPTEMBER 8, HUONG AND TRIEU WILL ADVISE ALL OF THEIR MEN THAT THE ELCTION IS OVER AND IT IS TIME TO THINK CONSTRUCTIVELY ABOUT THE FUTURE. THEY SHOULD NOT DWELL ON THE PAST OR TAKE ANY IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS WHICH WOULD ONLY HELP THE VIET CONG.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 12/24/81
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2. [redacted] SAID THAT HE IS STILL CONVINCED THERE WAS MUCH CHEATING IN THE ELCTION, SOME OF IT VERY SUBTLE. THERE WERE ALSO MANY UNINTENTIONAL IRREGULARITIES SUCH AS A SHORTAGE OF HUONG BALLOTS AT SAIGON POLLING PLACES. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ALLEGED CHEATING AND IRREGULARITIES DID NOT CHANGE THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION BECAUSE THE INCOMBENTS' ADVANTAGES WERE INSURMOUNTABLE IN ANY CASE; "THE TWO GENERALS ORGANIZED THE ELECTION AND THEY WOULD HAVE WON EVEN WITHOUT CHEATING".

3. COMMENTING ON THE FORMATION OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT, [redacted] SAID THAT HE THINKS HUONG WILL NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO TAKE ANY PERSONAL PART. HOWEVER IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS WILL PARTICIPATE IF INVITED. [redacted] THINKS THAT PRIMINE MINISTER KY WOULD VETO ANY APPOINTMENT FOR [redacted] HIMSELF, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT FIND

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A PLACE FOR SOME OTHER HUONG MEN. [redacted] IS THINKING ABOUT A TRIP ABROAD IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PROVIDED THIEUR WILL PERMIT IT. [redacted] MAY NOW BE DRAFTED AS HE HAS NEVER MET HIS MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATION.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE SANATE ELECTION, [redacted] OBSERVED THAT IT WAS MORE FREE THAN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS FOCUSED ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. [redacted] JDE NO EXCUSE FOR THE POOR SHOWING [redacted] HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE THINKS IT POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME THAT THERE ARE SO MANY CATHOLICS IN THE SENATE. HE MENTIONED THE FAILURE OF THE SON THAI NGUYEN SLATE AS WELL AS THE ABSENCE OF ANY MILITANT BUDDHIST REPRESENATION AND EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT TRI QUANG MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEIZE UPON THIS SITUATION AS A "CAUSE".

5 [redacted] SAID THAT THE MOVEMENT FOR THE RENAISSANCE OF THE SOUTH (MRS) HS ABOUT 30 CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE LOWER HOUSE. IF THE ELCTION IS HONEST [redacted] EXPECTS THAT SIX TO TEN OF THEM WILL BE ELECTED.

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6. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT HOUNG'S PLANS FOR RETURNING TO SAIGON, [ ] SAID THAT CONFIDENTIALLY HUONG IS NOW IN

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SAIGON BUT IS SEEING NO ONE. UNTIL HUONG WANTS TO MEET WITH PEOPLE AGAIN HIS PRESENCE IN SAIGON WILL BE KEPT SECRET.

7. COMMENT:

A. [ ] DID NOT SEEM TO BE BITTER, AND HE TOOK A RELATIVELY OBJECTIVE VIEW OF RECENT EVENTS. THIS IS REPORTEDLY NOT THE ATTITUDE OF SOME OF THE OTHER HUONG SUPPORTERS, HOWEVER. [ ] IS PORBABLY REFLECTING HUONG'S ATTITUDE, AND HOPEFULLY [ ] HUONG WILL CALM DOWN THEIR MORE MOLATILE SOLLOWERS.

B. [ ] IS CLEARLY NOT RULING OUT PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT BY SOME OF HOUNG'S PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS, HIMSELF INCLUDED. HOWEVER HE DID NOT SOUND VERY HOPEFUL THAT THIEU WILL MAKE ANY OFFERS TO THEM. SEVERAL TIMES HE USED THE PHRASE Y"IF THIEU DARES TO INVITE ME", IMPLYING THAT HE THINKS KY WILL BE DOMINANT IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND KY WILL NOT BE INCLINED TO USE HUONG MEN.

C. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY HUONG IS REMAING IN SECLUSION. HE AMY BE WAITING FOR AN APPROACH FROM THIEU BEFORE MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, OR HE MAY SIMPLY BE TIRED AND DISCOURAGED AND NOT YET WILLING TO FACE THE WORLD. BUNKER

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